

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

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P R 081702Z SEP 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1395

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1703

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BB

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ADAMS REPUDIATES DESTABILIZATION CHARGE

1. QUOTED IN ITS ENTIRETY BELOW IS AN ARTICLE WHICH  
APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER 4 TRINIDAD GUARDIAN  
ENTITLED: DESTABILISATION CHARGE AGAINST US REPUDIATED BY  
NEW PM.

2. TEXT OF THE ARTICLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"VICTORIOUS BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY LEADER J.M.G. 'TOM'  
ADAMS, WHO PULLED OFF A STUNNING ELECTION UPSET, WAS  
SWORN IN TODAY AS THE SECOND PRIME MINISTER OF INDEPENDENT  
BARBADOS.

"HE IMMEDIATELY REPUDIATED DEFEATED PRIME MINISTER  
ERROL BARROW'S CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS TRYING  
TO DESTABILISE THIS CARIBBEAN ISLAND.

"IN AN INTERVIEW BEFORE TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE  
FROM ACTING GOVERNOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS, MR.

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ADAMS DECLARED:

"WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE UNITED STATES IN ANY WAY IS GUILTY OF DESTABILISING BARBADOS. WE DEPLORE STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT MADE EARLIER THIS YEAR BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT."

"MR. BARROW, WHOSE 15-YEAR LEADERSHIP CRUMBLLED IN THE DECISIVE VICTORY OF MR. ADAMS' PARTY, CHARGE IN LATE APRIL THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DESTABILISE NOT ONLY BARBADOS BUT JAMAICA AND GUYANA AS WELL BECAUSE OF THEIR DEVELOPING TIES TO CUBA.

"MR. BARROW ALSO SAID SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S TACTICS AMOUNTED TO INTERFERENCE IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OTHER NATIONS.

"PAINTING BROAD BRUSHSTROKES OF FOREIGN POLICY UNDER A BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT, MR. ADAMS SAID: 'WE WILL CONTINUE OUR POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE AND HAVE NO PLANS TO CHANGE BARBADOS' PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARD WESTERN COUNTRIES, THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES OR ON ISSUES ON WHICH BARBADOS WILL BE CALLED TAKE A STAND IN THE UNITED NATIONS.'

"MR. ADAMS STRONGLY INDICATED HOWEVER THAT NATIONALIST CHINA WHICH HAS AN EMBASSY HERE WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE UNLESS IT CHANGED ITS 'UNREALISTIC' STAND OF REPRESENTING MAINLAND CHINA.

"WE INTEND TO PUT AN END TO AN ANOMALY NOT TO EFFECT ANY SHIFT IN ALIGNMENT", HE SAID. 'IF THE NATIONALIST CHINESE CAN WORK OUT A FORMULA OF REPRESENTATION WHICH WILL RECOGNISE THEIR GOVERNMENT AS ESTABLISHED IN TAIWAN AND NOT MAINLAND CHINA THEN BARBADOS WILL ONLY BE TOO HAPPY TO CONTINUE ASSOCIATING WITH THEM ON A MORE REALISTIC BASIS.'

"ASKED WHAT HIS VICTORY SIGNIFIED FOR OTHER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER REPLIED, 'IT WILL MAINTAIN THE FAITH OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. IT HAD BEEN LEFT TO ANTIGUA AND JAMAICA TO SERVE AS BEACONS THAT CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT ARE OFTEN NECESSARY AND I'M GLAD THAT BARBADOS, AFTER 15 YEARS, HAS JOINED THEIR NUMBER.'

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"RETURNING TO MR. BARROW'S DESTABILISATION REMARKS, MR. ADAMS CONCEDED THAT SUCH 'IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS SOMETIMES MADE WITHOUT THOUGHT TO PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES MAY HAVE HURT THE TOURIST TRADE IN JAMAICA AND PERHAPS BARBADOS.'

"THE SIMPLE OATH-TAKING CEREMONY IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE WAS ATTENDED ONLY BY NEWSMEN AND MR. ADAMS' WIFE, GENEVIEVE.

MR. ADAMS SWORE ALLEGIENCE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND  
PLEDGED 'THAT IN ALL THINGS I WILL BE A TRUE AND FAITHFUL  
PRIME MINISTER, SO HELP ME GOD.'

"AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SAID MR. BARROW WAS  
RECEIVED BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL THIS MORNING AND  
HANDED A LETTER NOTIFYING HIM THAT MR. ADAMS WOULD  
BE APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER.

"IN YESTERDAY'S ELECTIONS THE VOTERS GAVE MR. ADAMS' PARTY  
17 SEATS IN THE 24-SEAT LOWER HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AGAINST SEVEN  
FOR MR. BARROW'S DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY (DLP).

"MR. BARROW HAD BEEN IN POWER ON THIS CARIBBEAN ISLAND  
OF 250,000 SINCE 1961. THE 56-YEAR-OLD FORMER ROYAL AIR FORCE  
PILOT RETAINED HIS OWN SEAT, BUT THERE WAS SOME QUESTION  
WHETHER HE WOULD SERVE AS OPPOSITION LEADER. HE HAS SAID HE  
WOULD NEVER LEAD THE OPPOSITION IN AN ADAMS GOVERNMENT.

"MR. ADAMS, 44, ISSUED A PLEA FOR NATIONAL UNITY FOLLOWING  
THE HOTLY CONTESTED ELECTON. MR. BARROW DROPPED FROM SIGHT  
WITHOUT MAKING ANY STATEMENT.

"IT LOOKS SHAMEFUL THAT HE HASN'T COME TO THE PEOPLE TO TELL  
THEM SOMETHING,' SAID TAXI DRIVER EVERTON BLACKMAN. 'IT  
LOOKS UGLY THAT APRIME MINISTER, BECAUSE HE'S DEFEATED, WALKS  
OFF AND DEOSN'T SAY ONE WORD TO HIS PEOPLE. WE APPRECIATE  
HIM FOR HIS 15 YEARS BUT I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME FOR A CHANGE.'  
"THE ELECTORATE VOTED FOR A CHANGE OF FACES AND IDEAS, BUT  
THEY STUCK WITH A FAMOUS NAME IN BARBADOS HISTORY. THE 44-YEAR  
OLD ADAMS IS THE SON OF THE LATE SIR GRANTLY ADAMS, BARBADOS'  
FIRST PREMIER AND THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF THE SHORT-LIVED  
WEST INDEIES FEDERATION.

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"HE IS AN OXFORD EDECUATED LAWYER, A FORMER BRITISH BROAD-  
CASTING CORPORATION PRODUCER, AN ACCOMPLISHED POKER PLAYER  
AND AN AVID STAMP COLLECTOR.

"HIS ENGLISH-BORN WIFE, GENEVIEVE, CLUTCHED A BOUQUET OF  
FLOWERS AS SHE JOINED IN THE VICTORY CELEBRATION. THE ADAMS'  
HAVE TWO SONS.

"POLITICAL OBSERVERS SAY MR. BAROW'S ARROGANCE WAS A MAJOR  
FACOTR IN HIS DEFEAT. HE OFFENDED THE CHURCH, THE JUDICIARY  
AND SEVERAL CIVIC LEADERS DURING DEBATE OVER A CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT GIVING THE POLITICAL ELEMENT A SUBSTANTIAL VOICE  
IN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ISLAND'S JUDGES.

"MR ADAMS APPEARED STATESMANLIKE DURING A VICTORY PRESS

CONFERENCE. HE SAID: 'I HOPE THAT THE DIVISIVE ELEMENTS  
WHICH UNFORTUNATELY WERE VERY PRESENT DURING THE PAST FEW  
WEEKS WILL NOW VANISH... AND NATIONAL UNITY CAN CLOURISH AGAIN.'

"TH BLP'S PLATFORM PLEDGED A FREE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE,  
TRADE TAXES AND ELIMINATION THE FIVE PERCENT SALES TAX,  
A CHARTER FOR WOMEN AND A ROGRAMME TO FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH  
MR. ADAMS PUT AT 28 PERCENT AND MR. BARROW AT 13.7 PERCENT.  
MR. ADAMS PROMISED AN END TO CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT AND SAID  
ALL MINSTERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DISLCOSE THEIR ASSETS--  
SOMETHING MR. BARROW OPPOSED."  
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